## ABSTRACT

An absorbable biocompatible polymeric matrix is described. The matrix has a continuous phase that is preferably amorphous. The matrix also has a disperse phase of low melting biocompatible material that acts as scattering centers for light and melts at a temperature lower than the continuous phase of the matrix. This matrix is especially useful in a variety of medical devices. When this matrix is heated to about the melting temperature of the dispersed phase the matrix undergoes a visual change. This provides a visual cue to a surgeon using the medical devices as to when the device can be safely shaped or manipulated without imparting undue stress to the device. As the medical device cools below the temperature at which it may be safely deformed the matrix resumes its original appearance signalling that it may no longer be safely shaped or manipulated.